THE INFORMATION OF Thomas Dangerfield, GENT.

Delivered at the BAR of the HOUSE of COMMONS, *Tuesday* the Twenty sixth day of *October*, In the Year of our Lord 1680.

...sed and Signed to be Printed, Accord-ing to the Order of the House of Commons,

BY ME

William Williams, Speaker.

LONDON,
...inted by the Assigns of *John Bill*, *Thomas Newcomb*, and *Henry Hills*, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty, 1680.

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I Appoint Thomas Newcomb, and Henry Hills, to Print this Information, According to the Order of the House of Commons; And that no other Person presume to Print the same. Newcomb, 10th 1680.

Wm Williams, Speaker.

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Wi WILLIAMS, *Speaker.*

THE INFORMATION OF THOMAS DANGERFIELD GENT.

About the Months of September *or* October 1679.

WHen Mrs. *Cellier* and my self waited on the Lord *Peterborough*, to be Introduced to his Highness the Duke of *York*, his Lordship enquired of me, If the Lady *Powis* had given me any directions how to Discourse the Duke? I replyed, She had. Then he desired to know what they were. Upon which I shewed his Lordship a little Book; in which was contained a Scheme, and the pretended Discovery which I had made in the Presbyterian Plot. Which Book his Lordship carefully perused, and finding some omissi-

on therein, he ordered me to Write, while his Lordſhip did Dictate to me theſe words, *viz.* That the Presbyterian Party intended to make an Inſurrection in the North, and ſo to joyn with an Army of the Scots. Immediately after this his Lordſhip took us into the Dukes Cloſet (at [illegible] *hall*) where we both kiſſed his hand: and me he took from the ground (for I was kneeling.) Then I gave his Highneſs the aforementioned little Book, which he, after ſome ſhort peruſal thereof thanked me for: and alſo for my diligence in the Catholick Cauſe: Did adviſe me to go on, and wiſhed good ſucceſs to all my Undertakings: Adding in theſe very words, *viz.* That the Presbyterian Plot was a thing of moſt mighty conſequence, and if well managed, would be very Conducible to the Safety of the Catholick Cauſe: and I do not queſtion but the Effects of it will anſwer our Expectation, eſpecially in the Northern parts: where I am well aſſured the Major Part of the Gentry are my Friends, and have given ſufficient Demonſtration of their affections to me, as alſo of their intentions to proſecute this Presbyterian Plot to the utmoſt; for they are no Strangers to the Deſign.

Immediately after this his Highneſs ordered that Mrs. *Cellier* and my ſelf (in the hearing of the Lord *Peterborough*, who was privy to the whole Diſcourſe) to be very careful of what we Communicated to the perſons who were to be the Witneſſes in that new Plot, leſt we ſhould be caught in the Subornation, and ſo bring a terrible Odium upon the Catholicks, and make our ſelves uncapable of any further Service. After this the

Duke

Duke informed us, That in a Month or two's time the Commissions would be ready: but ordered us in the mean time to bring our part to bear with the Commissions: and particularly ordered me to find out some persons (as there was enough such among the Catholicks, as well as elsewhere) which were fit to be Trusted, and that should accept of such Commissions, which should be delivered them by a person appointed for that purpose, but not to be known to them to be any other but a Presbyterian: So that when occasion should require, they might, together with those which we then had, be ready to swear in the Plot, and that the Presbyterians were raising Forces against the King and Government, and had given out Commissions to that purpose. And in order to this, I did in some short time after, procure one *Bedford, Lunice, Grey, Hill, Hopkins*, and others, to accept of such Commissions, when they should be ready: whose business in the mean time was, to spread reports in the Coffee-houses, That the Popish Plot was a Contrivance of the Presbyterians, *&c.*

Now for our encouragement in the prosecution of that Sham-Plot, the Duke promised that he would take care that Money should not be wanting: but ordered us to use all the expedition the thing would allow, to make a Discovery thereof to the King. After which the Duke said, The Catholick Party would be eased of the Charge, in regard he was sure it would be defrayed some other way.

Then the Duke made divers Vows, and bitter Execrations, to stand by us in the thing: and engaged on his Honour to be our Rewarder. Adding

ding, That such Considerable Services were not to be slighted: and further promised, that to whose lot soever it should happen to be imprisoned, according to their fidelity and stedfastness in the Cause, so much the more should their Reward be augmented; and that all care possible should be used to support and preserve them: but particularly desiring me to keep up to the courageous and active Character which his Highness had heard of me. All which I promised to do. Whereupon we withdrew to the Lord *Peterborough's* Lodging, where we continued till his Lordship had Introduced Sir *Robert Peyton* to the Duke. Which being done, his Lordship left them together, as he said, and came to us: where among other Discourse his Lordship told me, I had a great opportunity to make my Fortune what I would my self, if I would but follow the advice of his Master the Duke of *York*, who, as his Lordship said, would certainly be my King in a very short time. Adding, that I must be resolute in my undertakings: For, said he, the Duke much affects Resolution, but hates mortally the timorous man.

Then I answered his Lordship, That I valued not my Life, provided, to lose it would be serviceable to the Duke's Interest. At which Expression he seemed fully satisfied, and from that time called me Captain *Willoughby*: and at our coming away, his Lordship gave particular order to his Servants, That at what time soever, day, or night, either Mrs. *Cellier*, or my self, should come to speak with his Lordship, we should be forthwith admitted. And then we parted.

Some

Some short time after, I went to wait on his Lordship from the Lady *Powis*, at midnight, to desire him to move the Duke, to get me with all expedition to the King: for then I was ready.

About four days after this, his Lordship sent for me, and took me to the Duke again (who was in his Closet at *Whitehall*) and the Duke told me, I must prepare my self to wait on the King, to give His Majesty a more particular Account of the Presbyterian Plot than what the little Book made mention of, (which Book, the Duke said, he had given to the King) and that he had so ordered the matter, that I should be furnished with Money, to enable me in the Prosecution thereof. But his Highness charged me to consider well my Story, before I waited on the King.

Then the Duke told me, I had gained, by my Diligence, a good Reputation among the Catholicks, and that I should highly merit by my Services to that Cause: adding, That I should in a short time see the Catholick Religion flourish in these Kingdoms; and Heresie torn up by the roots: And that he had heard of the Proposal which had been made me by the Lords, *Powis*, and *Arundel*, about Taking off the King, and of my refusal; as also of what I had accepted, touching my Lord *Shaftsbury*, and of all my Transactions in the Presbyterian Plot: saying in these very words, *viz.* If you value the Religion you profess, my Interest, (as you say you do) and your own future Happiness, take my Advice, and depend upon my Honour and Interest for your Advancement: For, Sir, you look like a Man of Courage and Wit:

therefore leſs Diſcourſe may ſerve with you than another: So that if you will but move by the Meaſures which I will give you, you ſhall not only eſcape with ſafety, but be rewarded according to the greatneſs of your Actions.

To all this I replied, I would ſtand and fall in the Defence of the Roman Catholick Religion, and his Highneſs Service; and was not a little concerned for my refuſing to kill the King, whom I was then well ſatisfied by my Ghoſtly Father, ſtood condemned as an Heretick. But this I did offer, That if his Highneſs would Command me to the Attempt, I would not fail either to accompliſh it, or loſe my Life.

Upon which the Duke gave me Twenty Guineys, and ſaid, If I would be but vigorous in what I had undertaken already, he would ſo order it, that my Life ſhould not be in the leaſt danger; adding in theſe words, *viz.* We are not to have Men taken in ſuch daring Actions, but to have them make an effectual Diſpatch, and be gone. Upon which I took my leave.

Some ſhort time after this, when I was ready to convey the Letters into Colonel *Manſel's* Chamber, I went to the Lord *Peterborough*, who brought me to the Duke, to whom I told, how I was ready to fix the Letters in the Colonel's Chamber. To which his Highneſs anſwered, I muſt make haſte, that I might be Impowered to make a general Search of the like nature. For, ſaid the Duke in theſe words, *viz.* Since I ſaw you laſt, the Lady *Powis* has informed me, That there are abundance of Letters and Witneſſes ready: ſo that 'tis now high time to begin. By this time there was ſome great

Man

Man come to wait on the Duke, ſo I withdrew.

About four days after this; when I had been preſſing earneſtly with Mr. Secretary *Coventry*, for a Warrant, and could not prevail, I went to the Lord *Peterborough*'s, and did deſire his Lordſhip to make application to the Duke, to uſe ſome means for a Warrant. To which his Lordſhip anſwered; 'Twas my fault there was not a Warrant granted, and that the Duke was ſenſible of my neglecting to make an Affidavit. So that now he did begin to doubt my Courage.

Thomas Dangerfield.

In

In and about the Months of June, July *or* August 1679.

THe Countess of *Powis* sent me with a Letter to the Lord Privy Seal, who was then at his Lordships house in *Kensington*: but the Contents of the Letter I remember not; more than that it was to pray some favour in the behalf of one *Anderson* alias *Munson*, a Priest, and then in the *Kings Bench*, and was reported to know something of the Plot. Which Papers contained matter of Fact, drawn up to render *Strouds* Testimony invalid, in case he should make any Discovery. And by my Ladies order I was to pray his Lordship to take the Papers: so that if *Stroud* should be sent for on Examination before the Council, that his Lordship would produce them to stop his Evidence: Which his Lordship promised to do. But *Stroud* was not sent for, and so the Papers were of no use: but I suppose they may still remain with his Lordship.

At the same time I did, by Order from the Lady *Powis*, inform his Lordship, That the Presbyterian Plot would be ready for Discovery in a Months time. To which his Lordship answered, that I should tell the Lady *Powis*, He was of opinion that a Month would be too soon, in regard things then moved with too much violence, for such an Affair to have any Success. So I took my leave.

Some

Some short time after I went, by the Lord *Powis*'s Order, with another Letter to his Lordship; the Contents of which I never knew: But was ordered to acquaint his Lordship, That the Presbyterian Plot still went on, and that we had divers Letters and Witnesses ready, to lay open the matter, when it should be thought fit. To which his Lordship answered, He feared the Lords in the *Tower* were too vigorous in that Design: but promised, when the rigorous Prosecution against the Catholicks were somewhat abated, he did intend to move it to the King and Council. Adding, That if things of that nature were but well timed, they could not fail of Success. So I took my leave.

Some time after, Mistress *Cellier* and my self went to wait on his Lordship at *Kensington*; where we both had admittance. Then 'twas Mistress *Cellier*, in my hearing, informed his Lordship, That she came in the name of her Great Master (the Duke of *York*) and at the most earnest request of the Lords in the *Tower*, to pray his Lordship to use some means, that the Proceedings against the Catholicks might be more easie, and that the Presbyterian Plot might be discovered. Then his Lordship desired her to let the Lords in the *Tower* know, that he was not idle in the Considering their Safety: For, added his Lordship, in these words, I have my self discoursed lately with all the great Ministers of our party, and my Lord *Peterborough* has done the same, and we both find there is favour intended; but we must wait the time: For things of that nature must be moved gently, or the whole Royal Party may be destroyed at once, for there are many eyes upon us.

Then Mistress *Cellier* informed his Lordship, That Sir *George Wakemans* Trial had broken the Ice, and of the great difficulty there was in prevailing with the Lord C. J. to come over; and also of the Meeting that was between the Lady *Powis* and the Lord C. J. To which his Lordship replied, That the Lord C. J. had taken more time to Consider of his part, than Five other far greater men had done (who they were I know not) and that his Lordship was forc'd to shew the Lord C. J. the Duke of *Yorks* Letter, before he would believe any thing. Nay, said his Lorship, notwithstanding this I was forc'd to get a particular Letter sent him from the Duke, before he would make any promise. Truly, Madam, said his Lordship, 'tis no small pains I take to serve the Duke, and their Lordships, and that you may assure them.

Then Mistress *Cellier* acquainted his Lordship, That *Dugdale* was come about, and intended to throw himself at the Dukes feet, with a Recantation of all that he had sworn in the Plot. And, said she, I am, in the name of the Lords, to pray your Lordship he may be secured in your house, as being a place more proper than any other. To this his Lordship answered, He was glad to hear of Mr. *Dugdale's* ingenuity in that Affair, and did assure Mrs. *Cellier*, that *Dugdale* should be entertained in his Houss, and that his Lordship's Priest should be his Companion: so that it should be impossible for him to do any more mischief. But his Lordship desired she would tell the Lords, They must use all the means imaginable to get him sent beyond Sea, lest a too strict Enquiry should be made after him.

To

To which Mrs. *Cellier* replied thus; My Lord, we do not intend he ſhall ſtay in your Lordſhip's Houſe above Nine or Ten days: for though he muſt do us Service by a general Recantation; yet we can never think him ſafe, till we have got him into the Inquiſition: for ſuch perſons are to be encouraged, not truſted. So upon this his Lordſhip ſent a Compliment to the Lords in the Tower, and ſo we came away.

Thomas Dangerfield.

Jurat viceſimo die
Octobris, 1680.
Coram nobis

Will. Roberts.

Will. Pulteney.

FINIS.